Take Your Beliefs From the Qur'aan and Sunnah[1]

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[1] Sunnah is the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (Salla Allah Alaih Wasallam).

Introduction

ا مد والصلاة والسلام على نبينا مد وعلى آله وأصحابه أ ع .

All praise be to Allaah and may peace and blessings of Allaah be upon our Prophet, Muhammad and upon all his family and Companions.

This booklet was one of the first in Arabic which I read on the subject of Islaamic beliefs (‘*Aqeedah*) several years ago, while I was a student in the Arabic Language School of Madeenah

Islaamic University in Saudi Arabia. I was so impressed by its simplicity and brevity, that I determined to try to translate it. I had almost reached the end of my task when someone informed me that it had already been translated into English. Therefore I left it, with the consolation of having had good practice at the work of translation. I did not think of that translation again until a copy of it was given to me here in Zayed Centre for New Muslims and I was informed that we were going to print it. Shortly after this, it was brought to my attention that the

translation left something to be desired: Text had been added in places and edited in others, while proofs given by the writer, Muhammad Ibn Jameel Zainoo, from the Qur`aan and *Sunnah* had been replaced with other proofs (albeit also authentic). Because of this it was decided to re-translate the book, in an attempt to produce something truer to the original.

I ask Allaah, Most High that He accept this humble effort from me and makes it of benefit to the new Muslims and the English-

speaking Muslims and all those who seek truth and enlightenment – *Aameen*.

Sameh Strauch.

Teacher, Zayed Centre for New Muslims,

Al-Ain, U.A.E.

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بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Verily, all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him and we seek His Aid and we ask His Forgiveness and we seek refuge with Allaah from the wickedness of ourselves and the evil of our deeds. Whomsoever Allaah guides, there is none can misguide him and whomsoever Allaah sends astray, there is none can guide him. And I testify that none is worthy of worship except

Allaah, Alone, without partners and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger.

As for what follows, these are important questions in *‘aqeedah* which I have answered along with the evidences from the Qur`aan and *hadeeth*, so that the reader may rest assured that the answers are correct, because the belief in *tawheed* is the foundation of mankind’s happiness in the life of this world and in the Hereafter.

By Allaah, I ask that He makes this work of benefit to the Muslims and that He make it purely for His sake.

Muhammad Ibn Jameel Zainoo.

Pillars of Islaam

Jibreel (ﷺ) said: “Oh, Muhammad! Tell me about Islaam.” The Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) replied: “Islaam is:

1. To testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah (i.e. that Allaah sent him to convey His Religion to mankind).

2. To establish prayer (i.e. to implement prayer with all its pillars, with repose and humility).

3. To pay *zakaah*. (If a Muslim owns more than 85 gms. of gold or its equivalent in money, he must pay 2.5% of it after one year. Other forms of wealth and property have their own set amounts to be paid upon them).

4. To fast the month of Ramadhaan (i.e. to abstain from food drink and sexual relations and all manner of sins from dawn until dusk).

5. And to make pilgrimage (Hajj) to the House (of Allaah, in Makkah) if you have the means to do so.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Pillars of Eemaan

Jibreel said: “Then tell me about *eemaan*.” Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) replied: “*Eemaan* is to believe in:

1. Allaah (i.e. to believe firmly that Allaah is the Creator, Who alone has the right to be worshipped and that He has Names and Attributes which befit His Majesty and He does not resemble His creation - ﴾ **There is nothing like Him** ﴿ (*Soorah Ash-Shooraa* 42:11) -).

2. His angels (i.e. that they are created from light and that they implement the Commands of Allaah and that we do not see them).

3. His Books (i.e. the *Tauraah*, the *Injeel*, the *Zaboor* and the Qur`aan which abrogates all previous Revelations).

4. His Messengers (the first of whom was Nooh (ﷺ) and the last of whom was Muhammad (ﷺ)).

5. The Last Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection when all of mankind will be held to account).

6. And to believe in Al-Qadar, the good and the bad of it (i.e. to accept all that Allaah ordains for us, at the same time undertaking

the necessary action to achieve our objectives).” (Narrated by Muslim)

The Right of Allaah Upon His Slaves

Q.1 Why did Allaah create us?

A. He created us to worship Him and not to associate any partners with Him. The evidence for this is in the Words of Allaah, Most High in *Soorah Az-Zaariyaat*:

{ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَ وَالإِنسَ إِلا لِيَعْبُدُون } (سورة الذاريات 51:56)

﴿ **And I created the jinn and mankind not, except to worship Me** ﴾ (*Soorah Az-Zaariyaat* 51:56)

- and in the words of the Prophet (ﷺ): "The right of Allaah upon the slaves is that they worship Him and do not associate any partners with Him." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.2 What is *'ibaadah*?

A. It is a comprehensive term for all those words and deeds which are loved by Allaah, such as *du'aa`* (supplication), *salaah* (prayer), *Thabh* (*halaal* slaughter) etc. Allaah says:

{ قُلْ إِن صَلاَتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ } (سورة الأنعام

(162:6

﴿ **Say: Truly, my prayers, my sacrifice (i.e. slaughter) and my life and death are for Allaah, the Lord of the worlds** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:162)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: Allaah, Most High says: "My slave does not come nearer to Me with anything more beloved to Me than that which I have enjoined upon Him." (A *Hadeeth Qudsiyy*[2], Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

[2] *Hadeeth Qudsiyy*: A *hadeeth* in which the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Allaah says…"

Q.3 How do we worship Allaah?

A. We worship Him in the way in which He and His Messenger commanded us to do. Allaah, Most High says:

{ يَاأَيهَا الذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا ا َ وَأَطِيعُوا الرسُولَ وَلاَ تُبْطِلُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ }

(سورة مد 33:47)

﴿ **Oh, you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger and do not render vain your deeds** ﴾ (Soorah Muhammad 47:33)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever performs a deed which is not in conformity with this Religion of ours will have it rejected." (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.4 Should we worship Allaah with fear and hope?

A. Yes, that is how we should worship Him. Allaah, Most High says, describing the Believers:

{يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا} (سورة السجدة 16:32)

﴿ **They call upon their Lord in fear and hope** ﴾ (*Soorah As-Sajdah* 32:16)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “I ask Allaah for Paradise and I seek refuge with Him from the Fire.” (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q.5 What is *ihsaan* in worship?

A. *Ihsaan* is to worship Allaah with the knowledge that He sees you. Allaah, Most High says:

{ الذِي يَرَاكَ حِـ ـَتقُومُ وَتقَلبَكَ ِفي الساجِدِينَ } (سورة الشعراء 26: 218-219)

﴾ **Who sees you (oh, Muhammad,) when you stand (in the night prayer) and your movements among those who prostrate (in the five daily prayers)** ﴿ (*Soorah Ash-Shu'araa`* 26:218-219)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "*Ihsaan* is to worship Allaah as though you see Him, for though you do not see Him, verily, He sees you." (Narrated by Muslim)

Forms of Tawheed and its Benefits

Q.6 Why did Allaah send the Messengers?

A. He sent them to call people to the worship of Allaah and to reject the worship of anything besides Him. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنا فِي كُل أُمةٍ رَسُولاً أن اعْبُدُوا ا َ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطاغُوتَ }

(سورة النحل 36:16)

﴾ **And We have surely sent to every people a Messenger (proclaiming) worship Allaah and avoid the *taaghoot*** [3] ﴿ (*Soorah An-Nahl* 16:36)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The Prophets are brothers… and their Religion is one." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.7 What is *tawheed* of Lordship?

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[3] *Taaghoot*: All that is worshipped besides Allaah and is happy to be worshipped, or every person who calls others to worship other than Allaah; and every *taaghoot* is a devil.

A. It is to affirm His Oneness in all His works, such as creation, His disposal (of the affairs of the universe) etc. Allaah, Most High says:

{ الْحَمْدُ ِ رَب الْعَالَمِ َ } (سورة الفا ة 2:1)

﴾ **All praise and thanks be to Allaah, the Lord of the worlds** ﴿ (*Soorah Al-Faatihah* 1:2)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “You (oh, Allaah,) are the Lord of the heavens and the earth.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.8 What is *tawheed* of worship?

A. It is to devote exclusively to Him all our acts of worship, such as *du'aa`* (i.e. supplication), *halaal* slaughter, vows etc. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَإِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ لاَ إِلَهَ إِلا هُوَ الرحْمَنُ الرحِيمُ } (سورة البقرة 2:163)

﴿ And your God is one God. None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Baqarah* 2:163)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Let the first thing to which you invite them be (the testimony): *Laa ilaaha Illallaah* (None has the right to be worshipped except Allaah.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

In Al-Bukhaari’s version: “… to affirm Allaah’s Oneness.”

Q.9 What is *tawheed* of the Names and Attributes (of Allaah)?

A. It is to affirm the Names and Attributes by which Allaah has described Himself in His Book and those by which His Messenger has described Him in the authentic *ahaadeeth*, in

truth, without allegory, without changing the meaning, without comparison with His creation and without negating them, such as His Ascension over the Throne, or His Descent (to the lowest heaven) or His Hand – in a manner befitting His Perfection, as He, Most High says:

{ لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السميعُ البَصِيرُ } (سورة الشورى 42:11)

﴿ **There is none like unto Him, and He is the All-hearing, All-seeing** ﴾ (*Soorah Ash-Shooraa* 42:11)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Allaah descends each night to the lowest heaven.” (Narrated by Muslim) (He descends in a manner befitting His Majesty without resembling any member of His creation).

Q.10 Where is Allaah?

A. Allaah is above the Throne, over the seventh heaven. He, Most High says:

{ **الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى** } (سورة طه 5:20)

﴿ **The Most Beneficent has *istawaa*[4] over the Throne** ﴾ (*Soorah Taa Haa* 20:5)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Verily, Allaah wrote (out all things in) a Book… and it is with Him above the Throne." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.11 Is Allaah with us?

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[4] *Istawaa*: That is ascended, as reported by Al-Bukhaari .

A. He is with us by His Hearing, His Seeing and His Knowledge. Allaah, Most High says:

{ قَالَ لاَ تَخَافَا إِنَّنِي مَعَكُمَا أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَى } (سورة طه 20:46)

﴿ **He (Allaah) said: "Do not fear I am with you both – I hear and I see** ﴾ (*Soorah Taa Haa* 20:46)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Verily, you are calling upon One Who hears, Who is near and is with you (i.e. by His Knowledge)." (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.12 What is the benefit of *tawheed*?

A. It is salvation from punishment in the Hereafter, guidance in this world and forgiveness of sins. Allaah, Most High says:

{ الذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُم بِظُلْمٍ أُوْلَئِكَ لَهُمُ الأَمْنُ وَهُم مُّهْتَدُونَ }

(سورة الأنعام 82:6)

﴿ **Those who believe and confuse not their belief with wrongdoing (i.e. *shirk*) – for them (only) is there security**

(from punishment) and they are (rightly) guided ﴾ (*Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:82)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The right of the slaves upon Allaah is that He will not punish those who do not worship others besides Him."

(Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Conditions for Allaah's Acceptance of Our Deeds

Q.13 What are the conditions for the acceptance of our deeds?

A. The conditions for the acceptance of deeds with Allaah are three:

1. Faith and belief in Allaah and affirmation of His Oneness. Allaah says:

{ إِن الَذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَناتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلاً }

(سورة الكهف 107:18)

﴿ **Verily, those who believe and work righteous deeds will have the Gardens of *Al-Firdaws* for their abode** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Kahf* 18:107)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Say: “I believe in Allaah,” then be straightforward, upright and honest.” (Narrated by Muslim)

2. Sincerity, which means to dedicate all one's deeds purely and solely for Allaah, without showing off and without seeking repute from men. Allaah, Most High says:

{ فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ } (سورة غافر 14:40)

﴿ **So invoke Allaah, making your worship purely for Him** ﴾ *(Soorah Ghaafir* 14:40)

3. That the deeds should be in accordance with that which Allaah's Messenger brought (i.e. the *Sunnah*). Allaah says:

{ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا } (سورة الحشر

(7:59

﴿ **So whatsoever the Messenger gives you, accept it and whatever he forbids you, abstain (from it)** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Hashr* 59:7)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Whoever does any deed (in religion) which we have not commanded, it will be rejected.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Major Shirk

Q.1 What is the greatest sin in the sight of Allaah?

A. It is to associate partners with Him, and the evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

{ يَابُنَيَّ لاَ تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ } (سورة لقمان 13:31)

﴿ "**Oh, my son! Do not associate partners with Allaah, verily, *shirk* is a great wrong** ﴾ (*Soorah Luqmaan* 31:13)

- and when Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) was asked: “Which is the greatest sin?” He replied: “It is to ascribe partners to Allaah, although it is He (Alone) Who created you.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.2 What is major *shirk*?

A. It is to direct one’s worship to other than Allaah, such as invoking or supplicating false deities, seeking sustenance from the dead, or the absent from among the living. Allaah says:

{ **وَاعْبُدُوا ا َ وَلاَ تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا** } (سورة النساء 36:4)

﴿ **Invoke Allaah and do not associate partners with Him** ﴾ *(Soorah An-Nisaa`* 4:36)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The greatest sin is associating partners with Allaah." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Q.3 Does *shirk* exist among the Muslims today?

A. Yes, it does. The evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

{ **وَمَا يُؤْمِنُ أَكْثَرُهُمْ بِاللهِ إِلا وَهُم مشْرِكُونَ** } (سورة يوسف 106:12)

﴿ **And most of them believe not in Allaah, except that they attribute partners (to Him)** ﴾ (*Soorah Yoosuf*: 12:106)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “The Hour will not come until some communities from among my people join the polytheists and until idols are worshipped (by them).” (Narrated by At-Tirmithi)

Q.4 What is the ruling on supplicating the dead or those who are absent?

A. Supplicating the dead or those who are absent is a form of major *shirk*. Allaah says:

{ وَلاَ تَدْعُ مِن دُونِ ا ـِ مَا لاَ يَنفَعُكَ وَلاَ يَضُركَ فَإِن فَعَلْتَ فَإِنكَ ـِإذًا منَ

الظالِمِ ـَ } (سورة يونس 106:10)

﴿ **And call not upon other than Allaah, who can neither benefit nor harm you, for if you did so, you would indeed be one of the wrong-doers** ﴾ (*Soorah Yoonus* 10:106)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever dies as one who supplicated partners besides Allaah, will enter the Fire." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Q.5 Is *du'aa`* (i.e. supplication) a form of worship?

A. Yes, *du'aa`* is a form of worship. Allaah says:

{ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمُ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ } (سورة غافر 60:40)

﴿ **And your Lord said: Call upon Me and I will answer you; verily, those who scorn to worship Me, they will surely enter the Hell-fire in humiliation** ﴾ (*Soorah Ghaafir* 40:60)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "*Du'aa`* – that is worship." (Narrated by Ahmad, and At-Tirmithi said that it is *hasan-saheeh* [5])

Q.6 Do the dead hear supplications?

A. No, they do not. Allaah says:

1. {إِنكَ لاَ تُسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَى } (سورة النمل 27:80)

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[5] *Hasan-saheeh*: That is, somewhere between the levels of *hasan* (good) and *saheeh* (authentic).

1. ﴿ **Verily, you cannot make the dead to hear** ﴾ (*Soorah An-Naml* 27:80)

2. { **وَمَا أَنتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَن فِي الْقُبُورِ** } (سورة فاطر 35:22)

2. ﴿ **But you cannot make hear those who are in the graves** ﴾ (*Soorah Faatir* 35:22)

Types of Major Shirk

Q.7 Should we seek help from those who are dead or those who are absent?

A. No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High says:

1. { **وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لاَ يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ أَمْوَاتٌ غَيْرُ أَحْيَاءٍ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ** } (سورة النحل 16: 20-21)

1. ﴿ **And those whom they invoke besides Allaah do not create anything, but are themselves created.(They are) dead, lifeless and they know not when they will be raised up** ﴾ (*Soorah An-Nahl* 16:20-21)

2. {**إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ** } (سورة الأنفال 9:8)

2. ﴿ **(Remember) when you sought the help of your Lord and He answered you** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Anfaal* 8:9)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Oh, you, the Ever-living, the Ever-lasting! Through Your Mercy I seek help.” (A *hasan hadeeth* narrated by At-Tirmithi)

Q.8 Is it permissible to seek help from other than Allaah?

A. No, it is not permissible. The evidence for this is in Allaah’s Words:

{ إِياكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِياكَ نَسْتَعِ ُ } (سورة الفا ة 5:1)

﴾ **It is You Whom we worship and it is Your Aid we seek** ﴿ *(Soorah Al-Faatihah* 1:5)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "When you ask, ask Allaah and when you seek help, seek it from Allaah." (A *hasan-saheeh* narration by At- Tirmithi)

Q.9 May we seek help from the living?

A. Yes, we may seek help from them in those things which they are able to do. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى } (سورة ا ائدة 2:5)

﴿ **Help you one another in righteousness and piety** ﴾ *(Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:2)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Allaah helps the slave so long as the slave helps his brother." (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.10 Is it permitted to swear an oath to other than Allaah?

A. No, it is not permitted. Allaah says:

{ **رَب ِإني َنذْرْتُ لَكَ مَا ِفي َبطِْني مُحَرَرًا** } (سورة آل عمران 3:35)

﴿ "**My Lord! Verily, I have vowed to You what is in my womb to be dedicated to Your service** ﴾ (*Soorah Aal 'Imraan* 3:35)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Whoever vowed to obey Allaah, should do so and whoever vowed to disobey Him should not do so.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Q.11 Is it permissible to slaughter an animal in any name besides that of Allaah?

A. No, it is not permissible. The evidence for this is in Allaah’s Words:

{ **فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ** } (سورة الكوثر 2:108)

﴿ **So pray to your Lord and slaughter (in His Name only)** ﴾ *(Soorah Al-Kawthar* 108:2)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Allaah’s curse is upon one who sacrifices to other than Allaah.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.12 May we circumambulate the graves in order to get closer to Allaah?

A. No, we may not circumambulate except around the *Ka’bah*. Allaah says:

{ **وَلْيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ** } (سورة الحج 22:29)

﴿ **So let them circumambulate the Ancient House (i.e. the *Ka'bah*)** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Hajj* 22:29)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever circumambulated the House (of Allaah) seven times it (i.e. his reward) will be as if he had freed a slave." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Ibn Maajah)

Q.13 What is the ruling on practising magic?

A. Magic is *kufr*. [6] Allaah says:

{ وَلَكِن الشَيَاطِ َ كَفَرُوا يُعَلمُونَ الناس السحْرَ } (سورة البقرة 2:102)

﴾ **But the devils disbelieved by teaching mankind magic** ﴿ (*Soorah Al-Baqarah* 2:102)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Avoid the seven grave sins: Associating partners with Allaah, magic…" (Narrated by Muslim)

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[6] *Kufr*: Disbelief.

Q.14. Should we believe the claims of the *'arraaf* [7] and the fortuneteller to know the unseen?

A. No, we should not believe them. Allaah says:

{ قُلْ لاَ يَعْلَمُ مَن فِي السمَاوَاتِ وَالأَرْض الْغَيبَ إِلا ا ُ } (سورة النمل 65:27)

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[7] *'Arraaf*: One who claims to have knowledge of the unseen.

﴿ **Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the unseen except Allaah** ﴾ (*Soorah An-Naml* 27:65)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever visited an *'arraaf* or a fortuneteller and believed in what he said, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q.15 Does anyone have knowledge of the unseen?"

A. No, none has knowledge of the unseen, except what Allaah revealed to the Messengers. Allaah says:

{ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلاَ يُظْهِرُ عَلَى غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا إِلا مَنِ ارْتَضَى مِن رَسُولٍ }

(سورة ا ن 72: 26-27)

﴿ "**(He Alone is) the Knower of the unseen and He reveals to none His unseen except to a Messenger whom He has chosen** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Jinn* 72: 26-27)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "None knows the unseen except Allaah." (A *hasan* narration by At-Tabaraani)

Q.16 Is it permissible to wear charms such as a thread or a ring in the belief that they have curative powers?

A. No, it is not permissible to wear them. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَإن يَمْسَسْكَ ا ُ ِبضُر فَلا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلا هُوَ } (سورة الأنعام 17:6)

﴿ **And if Allaah seizes you with harm, none can remove it but He** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:17)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "It will not increase you except in weakness; stay away from it, for if you were to die (while

wearing it) you would never be successful.” (Narrated by Al-Haakim, who said that it is authentic and Az-Zahabi agreed with him)

Q.17 Should we wear beads, shells and such like (as a protection from *al-’ain* [8])?

A. No, we should not do so. Allaah says:

{ وَإن يَمْسَسْكَ ا ُ بِضُر فَلا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إلا هُوَ } (سورة الأنعام 17:6)

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[8] *Al-‘ain*: The evil eye (of jealousy).

﴿ **And if Allaah seizes you with harm, none can remove it but He** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:17)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever wore a talisman has committed *shirk*." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q.18 What is the ruling on acting upon laws which contradict Islaam?

A. Acting upon laws which contradict Islaam is *kufr*, if the perpetrator claims that it is permissible to do so, or if he believes in their validity. Allaah says:

{ وَمَن لَّمْ يَحْكُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ ا ُ فَأُوْلَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ } (سورة ا ائدة

(44:5

﴿ **And whoever does not judge by what Allaah has revealed, they are the disbelievers** [9] ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:44)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "When their leaders do not rule by Allaah's Book and pick and choose from what Allaah has revealed, Allaah causes conflict between them." (A *hasan hadeeth* narrated by Ibn Maajah and others)

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[9] This verse applies to all Muslims and not just to Muslim rulers as some imagine and according to the scholars of *tafseer*, the *kufr* mentioned here is that of action, not of the heart.

Q.19 What should we do if Satan tempts us to ask the question: “Who created Allaah?”

A. If Satan whispers this question to any of you, he should seek refuge with Allaah. Allaah says:

{ وَإما يَنْزَغَنكَ مِنَ الشيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِالله إنهُ هُوَ السمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ }

(سورة فصلت 36:41)

﴿ **And if an evil whisper from Satan tries to turn you away (oh, Muhammad) then seek refuge with Allaah. Verily, He is the All-hearing the All-seeing** ﴾ (*Soorah Fussilat* 41:36)

- and Allaah's Messenger (ﷺ) taught us to resist Satan's deceptions by saying:

"آمَنْتُ بِا ِ وَرَسُولِهِ ، ا ُ أَحَدٌ ، ا ُ الصمَدُ ، لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ، وَلَمْ يَكُن لَهُ كُفُواً أَحَدٌ".

- which means: “I believe in Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah is One, The Self-sufficient, He does not beget, nor was He begotten and there is no like unto Him.”

- then he should spit over his left shoulder three times, seeking refuge from Satan. When this is done the temptation will pass, for it causes the devil to be sent away from him. (This is the

essence of the authentic *ahaadeeth* narrated by Al-Bukhaari, Muslim, Ahmad and Abu Dawood)

Q.20 What is the danger of major *shirk*?

A. Major *shirk* condemns a person to eternal damnation in the Hell-fire, as Allaah says:

{ إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِا ِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ ا ُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِ َ مِنْ أَنصَارٍ } (سورة ا ائدة 72:5)

﴾ **Verily, whoever sets up partners with Allaah , Allaah has forbidden for him Paradise and his abode will be the Fire and for the wrong-doers there are no helpers** ﴿ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:72)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Whoever meets Allaah while associating anything with Him will enter the Fire.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.21 Is there any benefit in good deeds for one who commits *shirk*?

A. No, there is no benefit in his deeds. Allaah says:

{ وَلَو أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُم ما كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ } (سورة الأنعام 6:88)

﴿ **But if they had committed *shirk*, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-An'aam* 6:88)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: Allaah says: "I have no need of partners, whoever does any deed in which he associates partners with Me, I will reject him and his *shirk*." (Narrated by Muslim)

Minor Shirk

Q.1 What is minor *shirk*?

A. Minor *shirk* is *riyaa`*.[10] Allaah, Most High says:

[10] *Riyaa`*: To perform good deeds in order to be seen by others, not for the sake of Allaah.

{ فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلاً صَالِحًا وَلاَ يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِهِ أَحَدًا } (سورة الكهف 10:18)

﴿ **And whoever hopes to meet his Lord, let him perform righteous deeds and not associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Kahf* 18:10)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Verily, the thing which I fear most for you is minor *shirk – riyaa`*." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad).

It is a form of minor *shirk* for a person to say: “Had it not been for Allaah and so-and-so…” or: “As Allaah and you will.”

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: Do not say: “As Allaah wills and as so-and-so wills”, instead say: “As Allaah wills, then as so-and-so wills.” (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q.2 Is it permitted to swear by other than Allaah?

A. No, it is not permissible to swear by other than Allaah. He, Most High says:

{ **قُلْ بَلَى وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ** } (سورة التغابن 7:64)

﴿ **Say: "Yes, by my Lord, you will certainly be resurrected…"** ﴾ (*Soorah At-Taghaabun* 64:7)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever swears by other than Allaah has committed *shirk*." (Narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

- and he (ﷺ) said: "Whoever swears, let him swear by Allaah or keep silent." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Seeking Intercession

Q.1 By what means should we seek intercession with Allaah?

A. Seeking intercession is of two types: Permitted and prohibited.

1. That which is permitted and desired is through Allaah's Names and His Attributes and through righteous deeds. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَ ـِ الأَسْمَاءُ الحُسْنَى فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا } (سورة الأعراف 180:7)

﴿ **And to Allaah belong the most beautiful Names, so call upon Him by them** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-A'raaf* 7:180)

- and He, Most High also says:

{يَاأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا ا َ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ } (سورة ا ائدة 35:5)

﴿ **Oh, you who believe! Fear Allaah and seek the means of approach to Him** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:35)

In his explanation of this verse, Ibn Katheer reported on the authority of Qataadah that it means: Draw near to Allaah by obedience to Him and through the deeds which please Him.

And the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "I ask You by every Name which is Yours." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

He (ﷺ) also said to the Companion who asked to be with him in Paradise: "Help me in this matter by frequent prostration (i.e. frequent prayers – and this is a righteous deed)." (Narrated by Muslim)

It is also permitted to pray for intercession through our love and Allaah's love for the Prophet (ﷺ) and the righteous people,

as in the story of the people of the cave, who sought intercession through righteous deeds and Allaah made a way out for them.

2. Prohibited forms of intercession: This is by supplicating the dead and requesting them to fulfill our needs, as occurs today. This is a form of major *shirk*, as Allaah says:

{ وَلاَ تَدْعُ مِن دُونِ ا ِ مَا لاَ يَنفَعُكَ وَلاَ يَضُركَ فَإِن فَعَلْتَ فَإِنكَ إِذًا منَ الظالِمِ َ } (سورة يونس 106:10)

﴿ **And call not upon other than Allaah any that can neither profit you nor hurt you, for if you did so, you would certainly be one of the wrongdoers (i.e. the polytheists)** ﴾ (*Soorah Yoonus* 10:106)

3. As for seeking intercession through the rank or honour of the Messenger (ﷺ), such as the saying: "Oh, Allaah! By the honour of the Messenger, cure me", this is a *bid'ah*[11], because the

[11] *Bid'ah*: Religious innovation.

Companions (ﷺ) did not do it and 'Umar (ﷺ) sought intercession through Al-'Abbaas (ﷺ) while he was alive, by asking him to supplicate Allaah and he did not seek intercession from the Messenger (ﷺ) after his death. And this (innovatory) form of seeking intercession might lead to *shirk*, if the one who supplicates believes that Allaah is in need of a human

intermediary, as if He were like a Governor or a Ruler, for that would be comparing the Creator with His creation.[12]

Q.2 Does supplication require a human intermediary?

A. No, it does not. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَني فَإِني قَرِيبٌ } (سورة البقرة 2:186)

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[12] Author's footnote: Anyone seeking more information or evidence on this subject is advised to refer to: 'Intercession, its Rulings and its Forms' by Shaikh Al-Albani (may Allaah have mercy on him).

﴿ **And when My slaves ask you about Me, (say that) I am near (i.e. in Hearing, Seeing and Knowledge)** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Baqarah* 2:186)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Verily, you are supplicating One Who hears and is near (i.e. in His Knowledge).” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.3 Is it permitted to request those who are living to pray for us?

A. Yes, it is permitted to ask the living to pray for us, but not the dead.

Allaah said to the Messenger (ﷺ) when he was alive:

{ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ } (سورة محمد 19:47)

﴾ **And seek forgiveness (from Allaah) for your sins and for (those of) the believing men and women** ﴿ (*Soorah Muhammad* 47:19)

- and in the authentic *hadeeth* narrated by At-Tirmithi, it is reported that a blind man came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and said: "Ask Allaah to heal me…"

Q.4 What is the mediation of the Messenger (ﷺ)?

A. The mediation of the Messenger (ﷺ) is the transmission of the Message. Allaah, Most High says:

{ يَاأيهَا الرسُولُ بَلغْ مَا أنزلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن ربكَ } (سورة ا ائدة 5:67)

﴿ **Oh, Messenger! Proclaim what has been revealed to you from your Lord** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:67)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said, in reply to the Companion who said: “We witness that you have transmitted (the Message),”: “Oh, Allaah! Bear witness!” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.5 From whom may we seek the Messenger’s intercession?

A. We seek it from Allaah. He, Most High says:

{ قُلْ ِ الشفَاعَةُ جَمِيعاً } (سورة الزمر 39:44)

﴾ **Say: “To Allaah belongs all intercession.”** ﴿ (*Soorah Az-Zumar* 39:44)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) taught the Companion (رضي الله عنه) to say: “Oh, Allaah! Make him (i.e. the Prophet (ﷺ) my intercessor.” (Narrated by At-Tirmithi, who graded it *hasan-saheeh*)

- and he (ﷺ) also said: “I have kept until the Day of Resurrection my prayer for intercession for those of my people who died without associating partners with Allaah.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.6 May we seek intercession from the living?

A. Yes, we may seek intercession from the living in matters relating to the life of this world. Allaah, Most High says:

{ **مَن يَشْفَعْ شَفَاعَةً حَسَنَةً يَكُن لَّهُ نَصِيبٌ مِّنْهَا وَمَن يَشْفَعْ شَفَاعَةً سَيِّئَةً**
يَكُن لَّهُ كِفْلٌ مِّنْهَا } (سورة النساء 4:85)

﴿ **Whoever intercedes with a good intercession will have the reward thereof and whoever intercedes with an evil intercession will have a share in its burden** ﴾ (*Soorah An-Nisaa`* 4:85)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Intercede and you shall be rewarded." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q.7 Should we praise the Messenger (ﷺ) excessively?

A. No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High says:

{ قُلْ إِنمَا أَنا بَشَرٌ مثْلُكُمْ يُوحَى إِلَي أنمَا إِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ }

(سورة الكهف 110:18)

﴿ **Say (oh, Muhammad): "I am only a human being, like you. It has been inspired to me that your God is one God…"** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Kahf* 18:110)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Do not praise me excessively as did the Christians praise 'Eesaa Ibn Maryam[13], for I am only a slave. So say: "(He is) the slave of Allaah and His Messenger." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

(Excessive praise of a human being is called *itraa`*)

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[13] 'Eesaa Ibn Maryam: Jesus, the son of Mary (عليه السلام).

Jihaad, Walaa` and Hukm

Q.1 What is the ruling on *jihaad* in Allaah's Cause [14]?

A. *Jihaad* in Allaah's Cause with one's wealth, person and tongue is an obligation in Islaam. Allaah, Most High says:

[14] *Jihaad*: This word is often erroneously translated as: 'Holy War', whereas in fact, it means to struggle in Allaah's Cause; thus *jihaad* encompasses calling people to Islaam, teaching etc. as well as fighting in the Way of Allaah.

{ انفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالاً وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ ا ـِ }

(سورة التوبة 41:9)

﴿ **March forth, whether (you are) light (i.e. healthy, young and wealthy) or heavy (i.e. ill, old and poor)** ﴾ (*Soorah At-Tawbah* 9:41)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Fight against the idolaters with your wealth, your lives and your tongues." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q.2 What is *walaa`*?

A. *Walaa`* is love and support. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ } (سورة التوبة 71:9)

﴿ **And the believing men and women are *awliyaa`* (supporters, protectors etc.) to each other** ﴾ (*Soorah At-Tawbah* 9:71)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The Believers are to each other like (the bricks of) a building, each one supporting the other." (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.3 Is it permitted to take the disbelievers as *awliyaa`* and supporters?

A. No, it is not permitted to do so. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّهُم منكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ } (سورة ا ائدة 51:5)

﴿ **And if anyone amongst you takes them as *awliyaa`*, then verily, he is one of them** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:51)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Verily, the people of such-and-such tribe are not my *awliyaa`*.” (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Ahmad)

Q.4 Who is a *waliyy*?

A. A *waliyy* is a pious Believer. Allaah, Most High says:

{ ألا إن أولياء الله لا خوف عليهم ولا هم يحزنون الذين آمنوا وكانوا يتقون } (سورة يونس 10: 62-63)

﴿ **No doubt! Verily, the *awliyaa`* of Allaah, no fear shall come upon them, nor shall they grieve – those who believed and used to fear (Allaah)** ﴾ (*Soorah Yoonus* 10:62-63)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “My only *Waliyy* is Allaah and the most righteous of the Believers.” (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q.5 By what should the Muslims govern?

A. They should govern according to the Qur`aan and the authentic *ahaadeeth*. Allaah, Most High says:

{ **وَأَنِ احْكُمْ بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ ا ُ** } (سورة ا ائدة 49:5)

﴾ **And so judge (oh, Muhammad,) between them by what Allaah has revealed** ﴿ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 5:49)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Knower of the unseen and that which is open, You will judge between your slaves.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Acting in Accordance With the Qur`aan and Hadeeth

Q.1 Why did Allaah reveal the Qur`aan?

A. He, Most High revealed the Qur`aan in order that we may act in accordance with it. Allaah says:

{ اِتبِعُوا مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُم من ربكُمْ } (سورة الأعراف 3:7)

﴾ **Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord** ﴿ (*Soorah Al-A'araaf* 7:3)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Read the Qur`aan and act upon it and do not make your living from it." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Ahmad)

Q.2 What is the ruling on acting in accordance with authentic *hadeeth*?

A. Acting upon authentic *hadeeth* is obligatory. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانتَهُوا } (سورة الحشر

(7:59

﴿ **And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it)** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Hashr* 59:7)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "It is incumbent upon you to follow my *Sunnah* and that of the rightly guided *Khulafaa`* [15] - hold fast to it." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

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[15] *Khulafaa`*: Caliphs.

Q.3 Can we suffice ourselves with the Qur`aan alone, without the *hadeeth*?

A. No, we cannot. Allaah, Most High says:

{ وَأنزَلْنا إِلَيْكَ الذكْرَ لِتَبينَ لِلناس مَا نُزلَ إِلَيْهِمْ } (سورة النحل 44:16)

﴿ **And We have revealed to you (oh, Muhammad,) the Reminder (i.e. the Qur`aan) that you might explain to the people what has been sent down to them** ﴾ (*Soorah An-Nahl* 16:44)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Verily, I have been given the Qur`aan and its like (i.e. the *hadeeth*) along with it." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Abu Dawood and others)

Q.4 Should we give priority to other opinions over the Word of Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ)?

A. No, we should not do so, for Allaah, Most High says:

{ يَاأَيهَا الذِينَ آمَنُوا لاَ تُقَدمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَي ا ـِ وَرَسُولِهِ } (سورة ا جرات

(1:49

﴿ **Oh, you who believe! Do not be forward in the presence of Allaah and His Messenger (i.e. do not anticipate their decision)** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Hujuraat* 49:1)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Let there be no obedience to any created being if it entails disobedience to the Creator." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by At-Tabarani)

- and Ibn 'Abbaas (رضي الله عنه) said: "I fear that stones may rain upon you from the heaven! I say to you: "Allaah's Messenger (ﷺ) said:…", and you say: "But Abu Bakr and 'Umar said:…" !!"

Q.5 What should we do if we differ (in matters of religion)?

A. We should refer to the Qur`aan and the authentic *Sunnah*. Allaah, Most High says:

{ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى ا ِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِا ِ وَالْيَوْمِ الآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلاً } (سورة النساء 59:4)

﴿ **And if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger, if you believe in Allaah and the**

Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination ﴾ (*Soorah An-Nisaa`* 4:59)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "It is incumbent upon you to follow my *Sunnah* and that of the rightly guided *Khulafaa`*. Hold fast to it." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q.6 How do we demonstrate our love for Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ)?

A. By obeying them and following their commands. Allaah, Most High says:

{ قُلْ إِن كُنتُمْ تُحِبونَ ا َ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ ا ُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَا ُ غَفُورٌ رحِيمٌ } (سورة آل عمران 31:3)

﴿ **Say: "If you love Allaah, then follow me. Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins and Allaah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."** ﴾ (*Soorah Aal 'Imraan* 3:31)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "None of you has complete faith until I am more beloved by him than his father, his children and all of mankind." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.7 Should we abandon action and depend upon *Qadar* [16]?

A. No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High says:

{ فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى }

(سورة الليل 92: 5-7)

﴾ **As for him who gives (in charity) and fears (Allaah) and believes in *al-husnaa* (i.e. that none has the right to be**

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[16] *Qadar*: The belief that everything has been foreordained by Allaah.

worshipped but Allaah), We shall make smooth for him the path of ease ﴿ (*Soorah Al-Lail* 92:5-7)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Work (i.e. perform good deeds), for everything is made easy for that which it was created."[17] (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

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[17] That is, the path to Paradise is made easy for those who strive for it, while the road to destruction is likewise made easy for those who are determined upon it.

Sunnah and Bid'ah

Q.1 Is there such a thing in the Religion as *bid'ah hasanah* (i.e. a good innovation)?

A. There is no such thing in the Religion as *bid'ah hasanah*.

Allaah, Most High says:

{ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الإِسْلاَمَ دِينًا } (سورة المائدة 5:3)

﴿ **This day I have perfected for you your Religion and completed My Favour upon you and chosen for you Islaam as your Religion** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Maa`idah* 3:5)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "…and every *bid'ah* is a misguidance and every misguidance is in the Fire." (An authentic *hadeeth* narrated by Imaam Ahmad and others)

Q.2 What is a *bid'ah* in religious matters?

A. A *bid'ah* in religious matters is either an addition or a deficit in the Religion. Allaah, says, in refutation of the polytheists and their innovations:

{ أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُم مِنَ الدين مَا لَمْ يَأذَن بِهِ ا ُ } (سورة الشورى

(21:42

﴿ **Or do they have partners (with Allaah) who legislate for them a religion which Allaah has not ordained?** ﴾ (*Soorah Ash-Shooraa* 42:21)

- and the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Whoever introduced something new into this matter (i.e. this Religion) of ours will have it rejected.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.3 Is there a thing as *sunnah hasanah* in the Religion?

A. Yes, there is such a thing. Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said: “Whoever performs a good *sunnah* in Islaam will have the reward of it and the reward of those who follow his practice thereafter, without them losing any of the reward for it.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.4 When will the Muslims be victorious?

A. When they return to the implementation of the Book of their Lord and the *Sunnah* of their Prophet, spread the teachings of *tawheed*, avoid all different forms of *shirk* and confront their enemies with all the power at their disposal. Allaah, Most High says:

{ يَاأَيهَا الذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا ا َ يَنصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ } (سورة مد 7:47)

﴿ **Oh, you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allaah, He will help you and make your foothold firm** ﴾ (*Soorah Muhammad* 47:7)

- and He, Most High also says:

{ وَعَدَ ا ُ الذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنهُم فِي الأَرْض

كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكنَن لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ

وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا }

(سورة النور 55:24)

﴿ **Allaah has promised to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land, inheritance (of power), as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion, the one which He has chosen for them; and that He will change (their state), after the fear in which they (lived), to**

one of security and peace provided they worship Me (alone) and not associate anything with Me ﴾ (*Soorah An-Noor* 24:55)

The Invocation Which is Answered

1. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The slave who is stricken by grief or sorrow will not say the following prayer without it being answered and having his sorrow replaced by happiness:

اللهُم إِني عَبْدُكَ وَابْنُ عَبْدِكَ وَابْنُ أَمَتِكَ، نَاصِيَتِي بِيَدِكَ مَاضٍ فِي حُكْمُكَ، عَدْلٌ فِي قَضَاؤُكَ، أَسْأَلُكَ بِكُل اسْمٍ هُوَ لَكَ، سَمَيْتَ بِهِ نَفْسَكَ أَوْ أَنزَلْتَهُ فِي

كِتَابِكَ أَوْ عَلَمْتَهُ أَحَداً مِن خَلْقِكَ أَوِ اسْتَأْثَرْتَ بِهِ فِي عِلْمِ الغَيْبِ عِنْدَكَ، أَنْ تَجْعَلَ القُرْآنَ رَبِيعَ قَلْبِي وَنُورَ بَصْرِي وَجَلاَءَ حُزْنِي وَذَهَابَ هَمي وَغَمي.

"Oh, Allaah, I am your slave and the son of your slave and your female slave. My progress is in Your Command, just is Your Judgement. I ask You by each of Your Names, by which You have called Yourself or revealed in Your Book, or which You have taught to one of Your creatures, or which You have chosen to keep in Your Secret Knowledge to make the Qur`aan, the joy

of my heart the light of my eyes, which removes my grief and drives away my sorrow, thus replacing it with happiness.” (Narrated by Imaam Ahmad and Ibn Hibbaan)

2. The prayer of Yoonus [18] in the belly of the whale:

{ لاَ إِلَهَ إِلا أنتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِني كُنتُ مِنَ الظالِمِينَ } (سورة الأنبياء 87:21)

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[18] Yoonus: Jonah (عليه السلام).

﴿ **None is worthy of worship but You, Glorified be You. Truly, I have been one of the wrongdoers** ﴾ (*Soorah Al-Anbiyaa*` 21:87)

It is reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "If any Muslim supplicates with this prayer, it will be answered." (Narrated by Imaam Ahmad and others)

3. When the Prophet (ﷺ) was sad, he used to pray:

يَا حَيّ يَا قَيومُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيثُ

“Oh, You the Ever-living, the Ever-lasting, by Your Mercy I seek help.” (Narrated by Imaam At-Tirmithi)

End of the Book